

We have a good idea on how much a deployment like this would cost. \$2.5 billion a year. But, you know what? That is less than 4 percent of the minimum \$70 billion a year we are currently spending covering the health care, education and the different costs for illegal immigrants.

We already know how long it would take to get these troops on line and end this nightmare. One week. That is how long it took NORTHCOM to place 70,000 National Guard and regular Army troops on the Gulf Coast in response to Katrina, and we are still railing about how that took too long. One week.

If the burden of the National Guard is too heavy, we can ask our governors to loan the Nation's 15,000 State defense forces to help. We can call up the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Air Force Civil Air Patrol.

We have laws in place, thanks to changes we made in the 108th Congress. Title 32, Section 9, U.S. Code now allows our governors to call out their National Guard for homeland security missions such as this at 100 percent Federal expense.

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Governor Janet Napolitano of Arizona has supposedly made such a call on the Department of Defense. Her State legislature voted earlier this week to force her to follow up on that request.

Mr. Speaker, we need every Member of the House to urge their Governor to deploy all necessary forces to combat this invasion. We need the President to order the Department of Defense to fund this mission at 100 percent, and we need new legislation forcing the issue if action is not forthcoming. We can solve this problem if only Congress has the will.

THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my 1-minute and I want to repeat, because so many Members and people from all over the country went to the great celebration of the life of Coretta Scott King, her words: "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and you win it in every generation."

And clearly we have a failure in this generation. If you would take a look, as President Carter said, at the faces of the Katrina victims: the faces of the poor, old, black and white, poor, infrastructure not in place. Thousands of people died because of the inefficient government. The report that was released, "A Failure of Initiative," was released by the House Select Committee on Katrina, which criticized the

poor preparation for the response to Hurricane Katrina. We all know that the slow response to Hurricane Katrina led to mass destruction in the gulf region, particularly in New Orleans. The loss of lives, the loss of homes. But those were just a few problems which were revealed. But the sad fact is that those conditions exist today. Six months later those conditions still exist. The question I ask now is whether the Bush administration is prepared today for a disaster of any proportion, man made or natural disaster.

There is no question that the Bush administration failed in its response to Hurricane Katrina. The sad thing is, and I want to repeat, that it continues to fail the victims of the storm today. I am calling on the people's House. The Congressional Black Caucus leadership has put together a comprehensive bill, H.R. 4197, a bill that would lead to the recovery of the gulf coast region for the scope of Hurricane Katrina's massive devastation, some of the points made in the committee's report and one that we made today in our press conference.

This devastation stands today, 6 months later. The region of New Orleans looks like a hurricane disaster, bombed-out area. It sends a serious indictment that we can spend \$6 billion a month in Iraq, and yet we cannot solve the problems right here at home.

Where is the leadership in this House? Where is the leadership in the other body? And where is the leadership in the Bush administration? And I am starting with the top, the President, George W. Bush.

And I thank God that when we had our disasters in Florida that we had another administration that we worked with, the Clinton administration. I did not deal with the FEMA that was inept. Because we have had fires in Florida, we have had tornadoes in Florida, we have had hurricane after hurricane in Florida; but we dealt with a different administration, an administration that was willing to come to the community, that one piece of paper, if it was not filled out, we were able to get services. And how do you get that piece of paper? Well, we controlled that piece of paper.

God help us. God help America. And will the people in the people's House speak up for the people in the gulf region.

(1) The failure of a complete evacuation of New Orleans;

(2) Levees protecting New Orleans were not built for the most severe hurricanes, leading to a breach in the system;

(3) The collapse of local law enforcement and lack of effective public communications led to civil unrest and further delayed relief.

These are just a few of the problems which reveal that the government was not adequately prepared for a disaster of this proportion. The question that I ask now is whether the government is prepared today for a disaster of any proportion, man-made or natural.

There is no question the Bush administration failed in its response to Hurricane Katrina.

The sad thing is that it continues to fail the victims of the storm still today.

Along with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, we are urging the Bush administration to support our hurricane relief bill, H.R. 4197, a bill that if passed into law, would be a great first step towards the recovery and restoration of the gulf coast region.

GENERAL MESSAGE POINTS FOR CBC PRESS CONFERENCE

The House Select Committee Report on Katrina, "A Failure of Initiative," is a scathing indictment of the incompetence of the actions of the Bush Administration and the federal government.

Unfortunately, almost six months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region, the incompetence of the Bush Administration continues everyday to the detriment of the 1.5 million people who were displaced.

Natural disasters will continue to occur and we are not prepared to handle them. Man-made disasters may happen unexpectedly, and we clearly are not prepared to handle them either.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been active legislatively and we have been in regular contact with the people of the Gulf Coast region. We are in the planning stages of scheduling another visit to the region and holding a hearing in Washington around our legislation and related topics. We will also be holding the people in decision-making positions, like the President, Secretary Chertoff, the FEMA director, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Congressional leadership in the House and Senate accountable for their actions.

WASHINGTON, DC.—With respect to the House Select Committee Report on Hurricane Katrina, Congresswoman Corrine Brown made the following statement:

I would like to begin with a quote from Coretta Scott King: "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation."

My colleagues and I in the Congressional Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, and the Asian Caucus, were utterly disappointed upon reading the report, "A Failure of Initiative," which was released by the House Select Committee on Katrina, and criticizes the poor preparation and response to the hurricane.

We all know that the slow response to Hurricane Katrina led to the massive destruction of the Gulf Coast region, particularly New Orleans. The numerous warnings, inadequate planning and apathy in preparing the region for the scope of Hurricane Katrina's massive devastation are some of the points made in the Committee's report.

Unfortunately, the government's botched response has ruined the lives of millions of Americans, who are now forced to go without the most basic human needs. In the report, The Select Committee identified failures at all levels of government which led to the destruction of the region.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SIMPLIFIED USA TAX

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to